

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 927

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, MY

SUBJ: GHAZALI SHAFIE COMMENTS ON TERRORIST INCIDENT

1. MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS, TAN SRI GHAZALI SHAFIE, COMMENTING ON TERRORIST INCIDENT SAID AUG 8 ON MALAYSIAN RADIO/TV: (A) "...IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT SUCH AN INCIDENT WHEN IT IS THE POLICY OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO ENCOURAGE TOURISTS TO VISIT OUR COUNTRY"; (B) "...A STRICTER CHECK ON VISITORS IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT SUCH AN INCIDENT"; (C) THERE SHOULD BE CLOSER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT ACTS OF TERRORISM LIKE THIS"; AND (D) "...AS FAR AS MALAYSIAN POLICE CONCERNED THEY WERE VERY CORRECT IN MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER. THIS WAS SEEN BY THE FACT THAT THE FIVE JAPANESE PRISONERS REMAINED HANDCUFFED UNTIL THEY WERE HANDED OVER TO THE GUNMEN JUST BEFORE TAKEOFF."

2. AN AUG 7 MINISTRY OF INFORMATION BULLETIN QUOTED GHAZALI AS SAYING, "COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD MUST PUT THEIR HEADS TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM." THIS PRESS RELEASE CONTINUED: "HE(GHAZALI) FELT THAT THIS ONE PROBLEM COULD NOT BE SOLVED BY ONE COUNTRY ALONE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE FIRST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THIS

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TYPE OF NEGOTIATION WAS TO KEEP YOUR HEADS COOL AND THE

NEXT WAS TO HAVE THE FULL CONSIDERATION FOR HUMAN LIVES."

3. ON AUG 6 THE GOM-INFLUENCED AFTERNOON DAILY
"MALAY MAIL" EDITORIALIZED: "ONE CLEAR LESSON THAT
EMERGED FROM THE JAPANESE RED ARMY TERRORIST INCIDENT WAS THE
NEED FOR STRICT CONTROL OF ALIENS ENTERING THE COUNTRY."
CONTINUING ON THIS THEME, THE "MAIL" SAID ON AUG 7: BEGIN
QUOTE: THE JAPANESE PM'S HOPE THAT THE DAY
WOULD SOON COME WHEN HIJACKERS AND THEIR PLANES WOULD BE
REFUSED LANDING BY ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO
REALITY.
IT WILL BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PREVENTING
REPEATS OF 'THIS KIND OF WILD AND LAWLESS ACT.'
HIJACKER AND RADICAL GROUPS, FINDING NO REFUGE IN
ANY PART OF THE WORLD WOULD BE FORCED TO STOP RESORTING TO
SUCH FORMS OF BLACKMAIL.
INNOCENT LIVES MAY BE LOST WHEN GOVERNMENTS STAND
FIRM IN THE FIRST FEW TEST CASES BUT WE CANNOT BE FOREVER
GIVING IN TO THREATS. IT WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A
WEAKNESS TO BE EXPLOITED. WE WOULD BE LIVING IN CONSTANT
FEAR OF ANOTHER ATTACK.
BESIDES, SUCH TERROR TACTICS AS EMPLOYED BY THE
JAPANESE RED ARMY, HAVE BEEN DENOUNCED BY OTHER GUERILLA
GROUPS, SUCH AS THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION. END QUOTE.

4. BEGIN LOU: FOREGOING STATEMENTS BY GHAZALI SHAFIE AND
GOVT-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPERS (IN ADDITION TO "NEW STRAITS
TIMES" EDITORIAL PER KL 4675) ARE PRELIMINARY AND SKETCHY,
BUT THEY TOUCH ON DIFFICULTIES IN PHYSICALLY PREVENTING
TERRORIST ATTACKS AS WELL AS WITH DIPLOMATIC AND LEGAL
COUNTERMEASURES AND SANCTIONS. UP TO THIS TIME, GOM
HAS FELT "IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE," INTER ALIA, BECAUSE
MALAYSIA HAS CAREFULLY FURBISHED ITS THIRD WORLD AND
ISLAMIC BLOC CREDENTIALS. NOW THAT IT HAS HAPPENED, WE
WILL BE CONTACTING GHAZALI SHAFIE AND OTHER TO FOLLOW UP
ON THESE FLICKERS OF AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM OF
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM (SEPTTEL).
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